REMARKS

The office action of February 24, 2010 has been reviewed and its contents carefully noted. Reconsideration of this case, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claim 1, as amended, remains in this case. Claims 2-6 have been cancelled by this response. Support for the amendment of claim 1 may be found on page 9, lines 20-24 of the specification, as filed.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has made a restriction requirement and has identified 24 groups as follows:

Group I, claim(s) 1 (in part), 2 (in part), drawn to a protease inhibitor comprising a redox activity protein.

Group II, claim(s) 1 (in part), 2 (in part), drawn to a protease inhibitor comprising a protein with a similar activity to said redox activity protein.

Group III, claim(s) 1 (in part), 2 (in part), drawn to a protease inhibitor comprising a gene that encodes redox activity protein.

Group IV, claim(s) 1 (in part), 2 (in part), drawn to a protease inhibitor comprising a gene that encodes the protein with a similar activity to said redox activity protein.

Group V, claim(s) 3 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease comprising a redox activity protein.

Group VI, claim(s) 3 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease comprising a protein with a similar activity to said redox activity protein.

Group VII, claim(s) 3 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease comprising a gene that encodes redox activity protein.

Group VIII, claim(s) 3 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease comprising a gene that encodes a protein with a similar activity to said redox activity protein.

Group IX, claim(s) 3 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for immunodeficiency syndrome comprising a redox activity protein.

Group X, claim(s) 3 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for immunodeficiency syndrome comprising a protein with a similar activity to said redox activity protein.

Group XI, claim(s) 3 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for immunodeficiency syndrome comprising a gene that encodes redox activity protein.

Group XII, claim(s) 3 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for immunodeficiency syndrome comprising a gene that encodes a protein with a similar activity to said redox activity protein.

Group XIII, claim(s) 4 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease comprising an interleukin-18 inhibitor protein.

Group XIV, claim(s) 4 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease comprising a protein with an activity of inhibiting interlekin-18.

Group XV, claim(s) 4 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease comprising a gene that encodes an interleukin-18 inhibitor protein.

Group XVI, claim(s) 4 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease comprising a gene that encodes a protein with an activity of inhibiting interlekin-18.

Group XVII, claim(s) 5 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for pulmonary alveolar proteinosis comprising an interleukin-18 inhibitor protein.

Group XVIII, claim(s) 5 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for pulmonary alveolar proteinosis comprising a protein with an activity of inhibiting interlekin-18.

Group XIX, claim(s) 5(in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for pulmonary alveolar proteinosis comprising a gene that encodes an interleukin-18 inhibitor protein.

Group XX claim(s) 5 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for pulmonary alveolar proteinosis comprising a gene that encodes a protein with an activity of inhibiting interlekin-18.

Group XXI, claim(s) 6 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for cardiovascular disease comprising an interleukin-18 inhibitor protein.

Group XXII, claim(s) 6 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for cardiovascular disease comprising a protein with an activity of inhibiting interlekin-18.

Group XXIII, claim(s) 6 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for cardiovascular disease comprising a gene that encodes an interleukin-18 inhibitor protein.

Group XXIV claim(s) 6 (in part), drawn to a preventive or therapeutic agent for cardiovascular disease comprising a gene that encodes a protein with an activity of inhibiting interlekin-18.

The election of Group I and the species defined as MMP-1 and MMP-9 (referred to as matrix metalloprotease on page 9, line 20 of the specification) is hereby selected, as shown by the foregoing amendment.

The Examiner has alleged that claim 1 lacks unity of invention as being anticipated by Ueda et al. However, since amended claim 1 now defines a protease inhibitor having special technical features as required under PCT Rule 13.2, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are patentable. Such action is therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner disagrees, or believes for any other reason that direct contact with Applicants' attorney would advance the prosecution of the case to finality, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

"Recognizing that Internet communications are not secured, I hereby authorize the PTO to communicate with me concerning any subject matter of this application by electronic mail. I understand that a copy of these communications will be made of record in the application file."

Respectfully Submitted:
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